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**Boldon Urban District Council**

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1959.



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T. C. FALCONER,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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WEST & GRANDSON, PRINTERS, SEAHAM



# **Boldon Urban District Council**

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# Boldon Urban District Council

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1959

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## Chairman

Councillor O. Clark.

## Vice-Chairman

Councillor S. Robinson.

## MEMBERS

### Boldon Colliery Ward

Coun. Mrs. M. A. Simpson  
Coun. J. R. Pears

### New Town (Boldon Colliery) Ward

Coun. R. McDarmont  
Coun. O. Clark  
Coun. Mrs. M. Gibson

### East Boldon

Coun. J. J. Egglshaw  
Coun. D. S. Hewet

### West Boldon Ward

Coun. J. W. Shaw

### Whitburn Ward

Coun. S. Robinson  
Coun. M. Hannah  
Coun. L. Hannah

### Whitburn Colliery Ward

Coun. W. Easten

### Cleadon Ward

Coun. T. Brown  
Coun. J. Tate

## UNITED DISTRICTS OF JARROW, HEBBURN, FELLING AND BOLDON

Coun. L. Hannah  
Coun. Mrs. M. Simpson

Coun. Mrs. M. Gibson  
Coun. Mrs. H. L. Calvert

## DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

### No. 5 AREA HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE OF BOLDON

Coun. O. Clark  
Coun. Mrs. M. Gibson

Coun. L. Hannah

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
East Boldon,  
1960

Telephone 7241/2

## PREFACE

### To the Chairman and Members of the Boldon Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the health of the Urban District and the work in the Health Department for the year 1959.

The Jarrow, Hebburn, Felling and Boldon United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Amendment Order, 1959, extended the area of the United Districts of Jarrow, Hebburn and Felling, which had existed since 1953 to include the Urban District of Boldon. The area now covers almost 15,000 acres; this Order came into effect on 1st April, 1959, and increased my duties and responsibilities as Medical Officer of Health to serve a total population of 105,000.

The Health Statistics are set out in detail in the body of the report; there are, however, certain features on which I should like to comment.

The population of the Urban District rose during the year by 690 to 20,230; the natural increase excess of births over deaths was 152. The birth rate showed a fall to 18.2; the standardised birth rate (i.e. corrected for age and sex distribution of population) was 17.1 which was in excess of the figure of 16.5 for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 21.7 showed an increase compared with the previous year but was less than the National Rate which was the lowest ever recorded.

The Death Rate of 10.7 showed a decrease compared with 1958, and the Standardised Rate of 11.9 exceeded slightly that for England and Wales; Heart Disease and Cancer accounted for more than half the deaths.

I must once again refer to what is undoubtedly one of the most serious and ever increasing epidemics of modern times—Lung Cancer. In 1949 this disease caused 11,000 deaths in England and Wales. This figure has increased by 1,000 each year so that last year the number of deaths had risen to 21,000—almost doubled in a decade !

Causes of Death	Polio	Motor Vehicle Accidents	Lung Cancer
England and Wales ...	66	6,026	21,063
Boldon ... ..	0	1	12

In order to place this disease in proper perspective, the foregoing comparison with the mortality from poliomyelitis and motor vehicle accidents is of interest. These two topics are, quite rightly, a matter of great public interest and concern and in consequence receive widespread publicity. We cannot travel far without seeing posters advertising road safety or the benefits of immunisation against poliomyelitis. In contrast one seldom sees any publicity given to the mortal dangers of cigarette smoking and the undoubted association with lung cancer. Such advertising would be unpopular with many vested interests. It is manifestly absurd that there should be a need for the expenditure of public funds to compete with the lavish and extensive advertising campaigns of the cigarette manufacturers; the introduction of certain measures of statutory control over such advertising merits serious consideration.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from Chairman, Members of the Council, other Officials and my staff in the Health Department.

T. C. FALCONER,

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION A

### Statistics of the Area

---

#### (a) GENERAL STATISTICS

- Area of District in acres—7,640.
- Estimated resident population—20,230.
- Number of inhabited houses—7,044.
- Number of Council houses—2,349.
- Number of Council houses erected during the year—78
- Number of private houses erected during the year—236.
- Rateable Value at 31st December, 1959—£206,266.
- Sum represented by a penny rate—£685 8s. 8d.

#### (b) PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL

##### 1. Description of the Area

The Urban District covers an area of 7,640 acres and is essentially rural in character with more than 50 farms or other agricultural premises. It forms a green belt between South Tyneside and North Wearside and is roughly rectangular in shape extending inland from the North Sea coast for a distance of over six miles. In this setting there are the following five communities, Whitburn, Cleadon, East Boldon, West Boldon and Boldon Colliery; the last of these is largely industrial and accommodates approximately one third of the total population of the Urban District. The remainder of the Urban District is to a large extent residential and many of the inhabitants are employed outside the district.

##### 2. Employment

Mr. W. Bell, Manager of the Employment Exchange, has kindly supplied the following information relating to Employment, Unemployment and Disablement.

#### MAIN INDUSTRIES

Building and Contracting, Coalmining, Electrical repairs, Farming, Light Engineering, Paint and Bituminous Products, Road Transport, Stores (Departmental), Tarmacadam Manufacture.

There are fifteen employers in the Urban District with 20 or more employees.

**UNEMPLOYMENT**

On the 7th December, 1959, the position was as follows:—

	Total on Register	Temporarily Stopped
Females ... ..	23	2
Males ... ..	126	13
Totals ... ..	149	15

**DISABLEMENT**

There are 190 males and 10 females on the register of disabled persons. This shows a decline of about 30 during the last five years. Of the 12 unemployed disabled persons 10 males and 1 female were suitable for open industry and 1 male suitable for sheltered employment only. These figures have remained static for some time.

All the above figures are in respect of persons over 18 years of age.

**(c) EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS**

Population—Estimated mid-year 20,230.

**Live Births:**

	M.	F.	Total
Total ... ..	189	179	368
Legitimate ... ..	185	174	359
Illegitimate ... ..	4	5	9
Birth Rate ... ..		18.2	
Comparability Factor ... ..		0.94	
Standardised Birth Rate ... ..		17.1	

**Still Births:**

	M.	F.	Total
Total ... ..	3	8	11
Legitimate ... ..	3	8	11
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
Rate per thousand total live and still births ... ..		29.0	
Rate per thousand estimated resident population ... ..		0.5	

**Deaths:**

	M.	F.	Total
All Causes ... ..	111	105	216
Death Rate ... ..		10.7	
Comparability Factor ... ..		1.11	
Standardised Death Rate ... ..		11.9	

**Principal Causes of Death**

	M.	F.	Total	% of total Deaths
Heart Disease (all types) ... ..	29	40	69	31.9
Cancer (all types) ... ..	30	20	50	23.1
Respiratory Disease ... ..	22	8	30	13.9
Vascular disease of the Nervous Sys- tem ... ..	13	22	35	16.2

**Comparison of Vital Statistics Rates**

	England & Wales	Boldon
Birth Rate ... ..	16.5*	17.1
Infant Mortality ... ..	22.0†	21.7
Still Births Rate ... ..	20.7	29.0
Death Rate ... ..	11.6	11.9

\* Highest since 1949.

† Lowest ever recorded.

**Infant Mortality**

	M.	F.	Total
<b>Deaths of Infants under one year of age :</b>			
Total ... ..	5	3	8
Legitimate ... ..	5	3	8
Illegitimate ... ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

**Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :**

All infants per 1,000 live birth ...	21.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..	21.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegiti- mate live births ... ..	Nil.

	M.	F.	Total
<b>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :</b>			
Total ... ..	5	2	7
Legitimate ... ..	5	2	7
Illegitimate ... ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

**Neo-natal Death Rate**

(i.e. Infant Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)

19.0

<b>Deaths of Infants under one week of age :</b>	M.	F.	Total
Total ... ..	5	1	6
Legitimate ... ..	5	1	6
Illegitimate ... ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

## Causes of Infant Deaths

Fulminating Broncho Pneumonia ...	1
Congenital Malformations ...	3
Prematurity ...	4
	<hr/>
	8

## CAUSES OF DEATH, 1959

	Male	Female	Total	Comparison	
				with 1958	
				+	-
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	2	0	2	1	—
Tuberculosis, other ...	0	0	0	—	—
Syphilitic disease ...	0	0	0	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	—	—
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	—	—
Meningococcal infection ...	0	0	0	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0	—	—
Measles ...	0	0	0	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	5	4	9	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	2	12	5	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	0	4	4	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	0	1	1	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	13	8	21	2	—
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	2	1	3	3	—
Diabetes ...	0	1	1	—	1
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	13	22	35	—	11
Coronary disease angina ...	19	26	45	—	3
Hypertension with heart disease ...	4	0	4	—	2
Other heart disease ...	2	11	13	—	11
Other circulatory disease ...	4	2	6	—	2
Influenza ...	0	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia ...	7	4	11	—	1
Bronchitis ...	11	3	14	—	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	0	2	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	0	0	0	—	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	0	0	0	—	2
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	3	4	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	3	0	3	2	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	0	0	0	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	2	2	4	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	8	17	—	—
Motor Vehicle accidents ...	0	1	1	—	—
All other accidents ...	1	1	2	—	2
Suicide ...	0	0	0	—	—
Homicide and operations of War ...	1	0	1	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	111	105	216	17	48

**Vital Statistics for Previous Years**

Year	Population	Birth Rate	Standard- ised Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live Births
1955	18,020	16.1	11.2	28.8
1956	18,390	17.9	11.9	9.1
1957	18,960	20.2	12.1	28.7
1958	19,540	20.4	12.6	17.5
1959	20,230	18.2	11.9	21.7

## APPENDIX III

## SUMMARY OF JOINT AREA STATISTICS

General	Jarrow	Hebburn	Felling	Boldon	Joint Area 1959
Area in acres ...	1,970	1,563	3,325	7,640	14,498
Population ...	29,340	24,170	31,350	20,230	105,090
No. of inhabited houses	9,162	7,837	10,463	7,044	34,506
No. of Council houses	4,363	3,446	6,280	2,349	16,438
Sub-standard houses remaining to be dealt with by 1960 ...	800	23	107	160	1,090
<b>Vital</b>					
No. of Births ...	560	564	656	368	2,148
Standardised Birth Rate	17.4	20.7	18.7	17.1	18.5
No. of Still Births ...	13	12	16	11	52
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births) ...	22.7	20.8	23.8	29.0	23.6
Infant Deaths ...	27	8	25	8	68
Infant Mortality Rate	48.2	14.2	38.1	21.7	31.7
Maternal Mortality ...	1.8	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.5
No. of Deaths ...	378	281	339	216	1,214
Standardised Death Rate	15.6	15.8	15.1	11.9	14.8
<b>Principal Causes of Death</b> (Percentage of Total Deaths)					
(a) <b>Infants Under 1 Year</b>					
Infection ...	18.6	Nil	24.0	Nil	16.2
Congenital deformity	22.2	25.0	40.0	37.5	30.9
Prematurity ...	44.4	25.0	20.0	50.0	33.8
Others ...	14.8	50.0	16.0	12.5	19.1
(b) <b>All Ages</b>					
Heart Disease ...	37.3	25.6	25.5	28.7	30.6
Cancer ...	18.8	20.2	19.7	21.7	19.5
Respiratory disease ...	14.3	18.9	13.5	.9	12.8
Vascular diseases ...	11.9	15.6	14.7	16.2	14.3

## SECTION B

## General Provision of Health Services in the Area

## (a) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

## Staff of Health Department

Medical Officer of Health—

T. C. FALCONER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector—

R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Shorthand-Typist—

Mrs. L. SLATER.

Rodent Operator—

N. C. SPOUR.

## 2. Laboratory Services

Examinations are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne, and the Public Health Laboratory, Hylton Road, Sunderland. Results and numbers of bacteriological examinations for the year 1959, are as follows:—

				Pos.	Neg.	Total
Sputum	...	...	...	0	6	6
Faeces	...	...	...	0	4	4
Throat	...	...	...	0	0	0
				0	10	10

## 3. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

## Section 47—Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

It was not necessary for the Council to take any action under this section. During the year a number of cases were investigated by the Medical Officer of Health and, where necessary, admission to Hospital or Hostel was arranged, or the services of a home help were provided.

## Section 50—Burial or Cremation of Dead.

No action was necessary during the year.

## (b) LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, Part III, the Personal Health Services are provided by Durham County Council and administered through the Area Health Sub-Committee on which Boldon U.D.C. is represented by three members.

## CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

(Section 22)

### Ante-Natal

Sessions: Alternate Tuesday mornings at the P.M. Schoolroom, Hedworth Lane, Boldon Colliery.

Thursday Afternoons at the Barnes Institute, Whitburn.

The following figures show the number of expectant mothers who attended the Clinics, and the number of visits which these mothers paid to the Clinics.

Number of Mothers ...	161
Attendances ...	773

### Child Welfare

Sessions: Alternate Tuesday afternoons at the P.M. Schoolroom, Hedworth Lane, Boldon Colliery.

Monday afternoons at the Congregational Church Hall, East Boldon.

Thursday mornings at the Barnes Institute, Whitburn.

The following table shows the number of infants and toddlers who attended the Clinic, and the number of attendances of these children throughout the year.

No. of Children			Attendances		
Under 1	1-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	Under 1	1-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.
363	78	61	2,752	244	124

## MIDWIFERY

(Section 23)

There are 3 County Midwives in Boldon. No midwives practice privately in the area.

During the year they attended 175 confinements, which represents 41.6 per cent of all registered live and still births.

### Domiciliary Confinements

Doctor.	Booked.	Not Booked.		Analgesia.	
		Gas and Air.	Pethedine.		
Present at Delivery ...	134	—	8		118
Not present at Delivery...	62	1	13		36
Total ...	196	1	21		154

## HEALTH VISITING

Four health visitors serve the Urban District. The following domiciliary visits paid during 1959:—

Maternity and Child Welfare	...	...	5,847
Tuberculosis	...	...	331
Mental Deficiency	...	...	169
Schools	...	...	350
General Health	...	...	2
Old People	...	...	108
			<hr/> 6,807 <hr/>

The percentage of ineffective visits made was 12.1%.

### HOME NURSING

(Section 25).

Two whole-time nurses were employed during the year.

			No. of Cases	Visits
Medical	...	...	282	9,439
Surgical	...	...	38	1,075
Tuberculosis	...	...	5	213
Maternal complications	...	...	—	—
Infectious diseases	...	...	—	—
Others	...	...	—	41
			<hr/> 325 <hr/>	<hr/> 10,768 <hr/>

### VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

(Section 26)

The following tables give the numbers of children vaccinated and immunised at the clinics and by General Practitioners in the district:—

#### VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Under 1 year	Vaccination			Total	Re-vaccination		
	1-5	5-15	15 & Over		1-15	15 & Over	Total
144	8	12	14	178	5	33	38

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Under 1 year	Primary Immunisations			Total	Re-inforcing injections		
	1-4 years	5-14 years			1-4 years	5-14 years	Total
5	5	4		14	15	27	42

#### DIPHTHERIA/WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

Under 1 year	Primary Immunisations			Total	Re-inforcing injections		
	1-4 years	5-14 years			1-4 years	5-14 years	Total
197	36	10		243	7	12	19

## IMMUNISATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

## 2 Injections

Children ... ..	717
Adults 1933-1942 ...	205
Expectant Mothers ...	50
G.P.s ... ..	1
Ambulance Drivers ...	0
Hospital Staff ... ..	11
Total ... ..	984

## 3 Injections

Children ... ..	488
-----------------	-----

## AMBULANCE SERVICE

(Section 27)

The Urban District is served by the new Hebburn Depot at Ushaw Road, telephone 832157, which offers greatly improved facilities and accommodation.

The Depot is manned by a clerk-telephonist from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., during the remaining 16 hours of the day calls are received by the driver on duty who passes them to the Co-ordinating Control near Durham, which has been in operation since 1st April, 1958, and ensures an improved and more efficient service.

The Hebburn Depot serves the population in the Borough of Jarrow, the Urban Districts of Felling, Hebburn, Boldon and Washington, and part of Sunderland Rural District.

The following table gives a summary of the year's work:—

## HEBBURN DEPOT.

Journeys	Stretcher	Persons carried		Mileage
		Sitting	Total	
7,946	5,295	20,497	25,792	149,180

## PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE, AND AFTER-CARE

(Section 28)

Cases discharged from hospital and requiring after-care are treated by home nurses or supervised and advised by the Health Visitors. Sick room equipment such as urine bottles, bed pans, bed rests, air cushions, mattresses and rubber sheeting can be had on loan.

During the year 31 persons received equipment on loan.

## DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

(Section 29)

No. of home helps employed during the year	...	...	...	38
No. of cases attended at 1-1-59	...	...	...	70
No. of new cases provided with home helps	...	...	...	18
Type of cases—				
Old Age Pensioners	...	...	...	78
Sickness	...	...	...	5
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—
Maternity	...	...	...	5
				<hr/> 88

## MENTAL HEALTH

## LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS

No. of cases investigated ... .. 16

**Admissions to Hospital**

Urgency Order	...	...	...	—
Certified Patients	...	...	...	1
3-Day Orders	...	...	...	14
14-Day Orders	...	...	...	—
Relapse on trial	...	...	...	—
Escape and Recapture	...	...	...	—
Voluntary Patients	...	...	...	—
Temporary Patients	...	...	...	—
Total	...	...	...	<hr/> 15

## MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS

Under supervision and guardianship	...	32
In Institutions	...	13
Total	...	<hr/> 45

## EDUCATION ACT

Children Notified during year		
as (a) Ineducable	...	1
(b) Requiring supervision after leaving school	...	3
Total	...	<hr/> 4

### (c) HOSPITAL SERVICES

The only hospital situated in the Urban District is Boldon Hospital which caters for Geriatric and Chronic Sick Cases; there are 10 female beds and 22 male beds. There are no direct admissions but only transfers from other hospitals, principally the General Hospital, Sunderland, following preliminary assessment.

### VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS

The following numbers of patients were treated at the Sunderland Clinic during 1959.

	Syphilis		Gonorrhoea		Non-Venereal	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Sunderland	1	—	—	—	4	1

### MASS X-RAY

No. 2 Mass Radiography Unit of the Newcastle Regional Board makes frequent visits to South Tyneside.

The following table gives details of the work done by the Unit in the district:—

I am indebted to Dr. Marienfeld for the following statistics.

	Total No. of Films	Total Referred Chest Clinic	Notified “ Active ” Tuberculosis	Not Notified
Public Session—March, 1959				
Male	587	15	—	—
Female	507	10	1	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>

A new 100 m.m. X-Ray Camera was brought into use in February, 1959, thus dispensing with the need for large films.

### BLOOD TRANSFUSION

Mr. G. Tait Hunter, the Regional Organiser, has kindly supplied details of the donor panels and the sessions in Boldon during the year.

Date of Sessions 6th August	No. of Donors attending 73
Donor Panel at 31/12/59 ...	... 242
New donors bled during 1959 ...	... 8

### (d) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Urban District is served by six General Practitioners working from two single handed and two partnership practices.

**SECTION C****Sanitary Circumstances of the District**

---

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

During 1959 the environmental hygiene conditions in the Boldon Urban District Council's area continued at a high level.

A considerable number of houses were made the subject of demolition orders and further areas were awaiting the decision of the Minister of Housing at the end of the year.

Steady though unspectacular improvement in food premises continues to take place and these establishments are generally in advance of local requirements.

New legislation has been commented upon under the various headings whilst changes in regulations have not caused any serious difficulties.

I am indebted to the Members of the Council, the Health Department Clerk, and the Heads and Staff of all other departments for their willing co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

R. W. ARMSTRONG,

Public Health Inspector.

## WATER SUPPLIES

The district is principally supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, and one house secures its supplies from a shallow well.

### Analysis of Water Supply

(1) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout the year 1959.

(2) Bacteriological examinations were made during the year from the various deep wells and other sources which constitute the supply, also from reservoirs and consumers' taps, and the following results were obtained:—

				Coliform Percentages		
				No. of Samples	Negative in 100 ml.	Positive in 100 ml.
Wells and other Sources	...	...	...	260	88.7	11.3
Reservoirs	...	...	...	107	91.6	8.4
Taps	...	...	...	126	94.0	6.0

(3) The water has no detectable plumbo-solvent action.

(4) The supply is chlorinated and no contamination has taken place. B. Coli being absent in all samples.

(5) There are 6,757 domestic premises connected to the Company's supply mains in the area.

(6) There are no stand pipes in the area.

### Typical Analysis of Water Supply

Chemical Analysis				Parts per Million	
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	450
Suspended Solids	...	...	...	...	nil
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	308
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	...	86
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	...	222
Calcium Oxide	...	...	...	...	89
Magnesium Oxide	...	...	...	...	60
Sulphur Trioxide	...	...	...	...	110
Chloride	...	...	...	...	37
Free Chloride	...	...	...	...	—
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	3
Dissolved Oxygen	...	...	...	...	—
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	—
Iron	...	...	...	...	nil
Manganese	...	...	...	...	nil
Silica	...	...	...	...	5

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

10,296 Yards of drains were examined during the year, nearly all being at new private dwellings built in the area, an increase of 1,684 yards over those inspected in 1958.

The work is generally of good standard, and mostly of standard glazed pipes. A small amount of work was carried out with pitch fibre pipes and these have been found to be satisfactory in every way.

**Closet Accommodation**

Type of Closet		1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Ash Closets	... ..	58	57	57	57	57
Water Closets	... ..	6,502	6,760	6,927	7,149	7,463
Chemical Closets	... ..	28	28	28	28	28

**RIVERS AND STREAMS**

An attempt was made to persuade the occupiers of land through which a water course passed to cleanse and regrade the ditch so as to make free unobstructed passage for the water. The County drainage authorities were also approached in the matter, but without any result. The difficulties of proving firstly that the ditch is a nuisance and dangerous to health and assigning responsibility amongst several persons were such that apart from having the more serious obstructions removed the matter was left.

**SCHOOLS**

No complaints were received about the sanitary condition of schools in the district. Several schools were treated for the destruction of rats or mice with good results.

Water supplies in schools are all from service mains of the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company and are satisfactory.

It was not necessary to take any action in respect of infectious disease in school children.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING**

The collection of household refuse is carried out by direct labour under the control of the Surveyor in a satisfactory manner. The refuse is disposed of by tipping on Sunderland Corporation tip which is just outside the southern boundary of the district.

**PIG STYES**

There are a number of premises in the area used for breeding or fattening of pigs for bacon and pork. It seems to me unfortunate that the construction of buildings for such purposes or any other agricultural use are not subject to any planning control. Some of these premises erected by amateur labour are in every way detrimental to the area. Fortunately, they are nearly all far enough from dwelling houses to avoid complaint.

The complaints received were in every case due to the swill boiling in which escaping steam carried away the foul smells in some instances for a considerable distance. Care in boiling and the selection of suitable materials has to a large extent overcome this nuisance.

**STABLES**

There is one farm in the area used as stables for a riding school, and it is well managed and kept clean.

**POULTRY, ETC.**

Several visits were made to houses, etc., about the keeping of poultry and pets, but in no case was any nuisance found.

### **SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS**

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.

### **CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956**

After very careful consideration the Council decided that the amount of air pollution in this district was not sufficient to justify the declaration of clean air areas at the present time. The district is mainly residential and has on the north, west and south, green belts whilst to the east is the North Sea.

They did however, adopt the model byelaw requiring the installation of apparatus capable of burning smokeless fuel in all new buildings.

Two applications were received for the prior approval of coal fired furnaces and these were agreed to on the advice of the N.I.F.E.S. consultant.

### **RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951**

There are no registered premises within the Urban District at which upholstering or stuffing of flock filled articles is carried on.

### **AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956**

No statutory action has been found to be necessary under the sections enforceable by the Council during the year.

15 Visits were made and the Farmers advised and reminded of their obligations under the Act.

### **PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951**

There are no premises within the Urban District registered as a pet shop for the sale of pet animals.

### **PESTS ACT, 1949**

The district is remarkably free from infestation of rats and mice. The complaints received are in nearly every case only of one rat and small infestations of mice.

Annual test baiting of 10% of the sewers manholes was carried out and in the treatment only 4 manholes were suspected of infestation; these with adjoining manholes were given a full treatment with satisfactory results.

Private houses are treated at the request of the occupier free of charge; whilst business premises are treated for the actual cost of the treatment.

Nearly all the agricultural holdings in the district were treated by the County Agricultural Committee's rodent control department until 31st March, 1959.

The total number of premises treated was 94, 34 less than in 1958.

One man is employed part time on rodent control work, and I wish to record my appreciation of the way he carried out the work with a minimum of supervision, and in a very thorough and conscientious manner.

The table below is in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All Other	Total
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District ...	18	6840	66	198	7122
Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1959 as a result of:—					
(a) notification ... ..	1	64	—	9	74
(b) survey or otherwise ...	8	47	—	1	56
(c) otherwise ... ..	1	14	30	—	45
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats ... (Major)	2	—	—	—	—
... (Minor)	7	43	—	9	59
Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice ...	1	32	—	—	33
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	10	75	—	9	94
Number of Notices served under Section 4. ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Proceedings ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ... ..	—	—	—	—	—

## Factory Acts, 1937 and 1959

155 visits were made to premises registered as factories in the district.

## PART 1 OF THE ACT

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

	on Register Number	In- spections	Written Notices Number of	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities ... ..	2	22	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Auth. ... ..	39	107	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ... .. (excluding out-worker's premises.)	23	26	—	—
Total ... ..	64	155	—	—

(2) Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	5	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Sanitary Conveniences</b>					
(a) insufficient ...	5	5	—	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for the sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	3	2	—	—	—
Total ...	16	14	—	1	—

### FACTORY ACTS, 1937 and 1959

The 1959 Factory Act's most important clause was to place upon the Fire Authorities the responsibility of deciding whether means of escape in case of fire at factories were adequate. The District Council still issues the Certificate as recommended by the Fire Department.

This Council has been following this procedure for the past year.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

During the year, 12 visits were made in connection with the investigation and control of contagious disease, and arrangements made for the disinfection of the houses and bedding either on removal of the patient to hospital or on recovery.

### SHOPS ACT, 1950—SECTIONS 38 and 72

A total of 205 visits were made to shops in the district not all of which come within the provisions of the sections. No formal action was necessary to secure compliance with the sections administered by this Council.

## SECTION D

**Housing Act, 1957**

During the year tenants of one clearance area were re-housed. Three houses were closed and 77 persons in 26 families were displaced.

Three Clearance Areas comprising 148 dwellings were submitted to the Minister of Housing for confirmation and during the year two areas had been confirmed without modification and contained 155 dwellings.

The general standard of housing in the area is very good, but I think that a more realistic standard of accommodation should now be adopted. Considerable numbers of houses are structurally sound but not provided with baths, hot water supply and other amenities, and Local Authorities have practically no powers to prevent these properties degenerating until they become beyond redemption when new houses will have to be built to replace them.

Two Acts came into force during the year. The Housing (Underground Rooms) Act, 1959, does not affect this district, and the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, which concerns the department in judging whether properties are suitable for the award of improvement grants.

A total of 393 houses were inspected and 962 visits made in conjunction with housing conditions as follows:—

**Under Public Health Acts**

Number of houses inspected ... ..	158
Number of visits made ... ..	283

**Under Housing Acts**

Number of houses inspected ... ..	235
Number of visits made ... ..	679
Cases of overcrowding investigated ... ..	2
Number of new houses built and occupied during the year	314
Total number of visits made in connection with the above ...	962
Total number of houses closed voluntarily by the owner ...	3
Number of houses unfit for human habitation in respect of which an undertaking was given for repair by owner	Nil
Number of houses found to require repair under the Public Health Acts ... ..	31
Number of houses found to require repair under the Housing Acts ... ..	4
Number of houses repaired under the Public Health Act after formal notices by the local authority ... ..	8
Number of houses repaired under the Housing Act after formal notices by the local authority ... ..	4
Number of houses repaired as a result of informal action ...	23
Houses at which other matters were remedied under the Public Health Act ... ..	9
Total number of defects remedied ... ..	181

### **MOVEABLE DWELLINGS**

Five sites in the district are licensed for the accommodation of caravans. The owners of sites have agreed that no permanent residence shall be permitted; the sites being used for holiday and pleasure purposes only, and this provision seems to be encouraging a good type of camp user.

During the past year no complaints were received and visits showed that the owners were keeping careful control of the premises.

### **DIRTY AND VERMINOUS PREMISES AND PERSONS**

Seven visits were made in connection with these matters and 20 houses were sprayed to destroy vermin and to disinfect, whilst dirty persons of whom they are very few, were by constant visits and persuasion in most cases improved.

## SECTION E

**Food & Drugs Act, 1955**

373 visits were made to the 123 premises in the district in which food is prepared, stored or sold. The standard of most of these premises is slightly better than the required standard. They are roughly classified as follows, but certain businesses deal in one or more main lines.

Confectioners ... ..	9	Fresh Fish ... ..	3
Butchers ... ..	12	Fish Fryers ... ..	4
Cafes ... ..	3	Grocers ... ..	46
Canteen and Kitchen ... ..	4	Greengrocers ... ..	10
Chemists ... ..	5	Sweets ... ..	11
Licensed Premises ... ..	16		

Forty-four premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act as follows:—

Bakers ... ..	5	Butchers ... ..	12
Fishfryers ... ..	4	Ice-Cream ... ..	23

in addition, 34 premises mostly small general dealers are registered as distributors of milk, but no premises are registered as dairies.

During the year, 147 visits have been made to the above mentioned registered premises, the majority of inspections being confined to butchers' and bakers' establishments.

Opportunity is taken whenever possible to advise and instruct food handlers of the importance of personal hygiene, and in the proper protection and handling of foodstuffs when visits are made to food premises. The fact that nearly all of the traders depend upon local trade and are therefore anxious to keep their customers, means that they do not take risks which a shop depending only on passing trade could do.

Condemned meat and meat foods are normally burnt in the Council's incinerator to which it is carried in a Council lorry. Other foods, such as tinned fruits, milk, etc., are buried on the Council's controlled tip.

It was not necessary to examine any large stocks or consignments of food during the year.

**FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS**

In general the standard of food premises in this district is in advance of that laid down in the Regulations, and I feel that tradesmen would further improve their premises and methods were they required to do so by changing regulations.

**MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS**

There are 29 dealers' licences in force for the sale of milk in the district. In all these instances the milk is sold in the closed and unopened containers in which it is received by the dealer.

There are no dairies registered.

Difficulties that have arisen were mainly due to the inadequate washing of bottles at the dairies, leaving deposits which were obvious to the customer, and in some instances easily removed. All such complaints were followed up by visits to the bottling plant if in the district and submitting the bottles of milk to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

At one farm it was noticed that churns sent to receive milk for a Dairy Company were foul and dirty. The Company was written to and a considerable improvement resulted, but it should be laid down that a person emptying a milk container must see that it is cleansed immediately.

A total of 18 milk samples were taken for examination and of these 13 were tested for the presence of Tuberculosis. All were negative.

### **SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958**

The only slaughterhouse which was in use in the district ceased operation in April, as the owners, the Boldon Co-operative Industrial Society Limited decided that the premises could be put to a more profitable use. The licence was accordingly surrendered.

At the time, it was being used by the Society, two butchers, and one farmer, who amongst them were slaughtering approximately 15 Cattle, 60 Sheep, and 5 Pigs each week, and it seemed unlikely that any increase in use would take place.

The premises had lairage for cattle, sheep and pigs, a large slaughter-hall, boiler room, and buildings to provide additional accommodation should it have been required, and was large enough to cater for the needs of the district.

The butchers deprived of slaughtering facilities by the closure of the slaughterhouse secured alternative accommodation at private premises in Sunderland, whilst the Co-operative Society purchased home killed meat from the Co-operative Wholesale slaughterhouse at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

No complaints or representations have been received that the district has not adequate facilities for the slaughter of animals.

### **MEAT INSPECTION**

The regular inspection of animals slaughtered for human foods was carried out until the slaughterhouse closed in April, 1959.

I am still of the opinion that longer periods of notification should be laid down.

During the year 973 animals were slaughtered and about 612 lbs. of edible organs and flesh were found unfit for human consumption and destroyed in the Council's incinerator. The principal cause of unfitness was the liver fluke which resulted in 252 lbs. of liver being destroyed.

The following table is in the form recommended:—

### MEAT INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses	Total 1959	Total 1958
Number killed ... ..	187	1	—	719	66	—	973	3,489
Number inspected ... ..	187	1	—	719	66	—	973	3,489
ALL DISEASES—								
Carcases condemned ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Parts or Organs condemned	61	—	—	—	—	—	61	190
Percentage ... ..	32.6%	—	—	0.14%	—	—	6.37%	5.5%
Tuberculosis carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Parts or Organs condemned ... ..	14	—	—	—	1	—	15	29
Percentage ... ..	7.4%	—	—	—	1.5%	—	1.54%	0.85%
CYSTS—								
Part carcasses or organs condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases refrigerated ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

## OTHER FOODS

No difficulty is encountered in securing the surrender and destruction of foodstuffs which are unfit for human consumption. Most of the tradesmen seek my advice on any food which is doubtful and willingly surrender any which is unfit. All the businesses are retail and it has not been necessary to examine any very large stocks of food.

The following foodstuffs were surrendered and destroyed:—

- 30 Tins of Evaporated Milk.
- 11 Tins of Stewed Steak.
- 28 Tins of Pork Luncheon Meat.
- 6 Tins of Tongue.
- 2 Tins of Ox Tail Soup.
- 1 Tin of Vegetable Soup.
- 72 Tins of Peas.
- 17 Tins of Oranges.
- 26 Tins of Corned Beef.
- 12 Tins of Creamed Rice.
- 28 Tins of Salmon.
- 1 Tin of Tuna Fish.
- 1 Tin of Crab.
- 1 Tin of Crawfish.
- 10 Tins of Red Cabbage.
- 66 Tins of Tomato.
- 16 Tins of Peaches.
- 33 Tins of Pears.
- 12 Tins of Chopped Pork.
- 1 Tin of Steak and Gravy.
- 8 Tins of Baked Beans.
- 5 Tins of Jellyed Veal.
- 26 Tins of Baby Food.
- 19 Tins of Pineapple.
- 3 Tins of Apricots.
- 3 Tins of Braised Pork Kidneys.
- 3 Tins of Spaghetti.
- 3 Tins of Pork.
- 13 Tins of Meat Paste.
- 3 Tins of Butter Beans.
- 23 Pkts. of Abernethy Biscuits.
- 5 Pkts. of Beef Suet.
- 1 Jar of Lemon Curd.
- 14lb. 0ozs. of Spice Cake.
- 155lb. 1oz. of Cooked Shoulder Pork.
- 36lb. 0ozs. of Sausage.
- 7lb. 8ozs. of Cheese.
- 14lb. 8ozs. of Bacon.
- 129lb. 6ozs. of Cooked Ham.
- 6lb. 0ozs. of Margarine.
- 6lb. 0ozs. of Leg of Pork.
- 4lb. 0ozs. of Carnival Layer Cake.

### **ADULTERATION OF FOOD**

Durham County Council are the responsible authority for the administration of those sections of the Food & Drugs Act which deal with adulteration and abstraction of substances from food, and they regularly take samples for analysis by the Public Analyst.

During 1959, 56 samples were taken of which 29 were of milk. No proceedings were taken.

### **PETROLEUM ACTS**

27 Visits were made during the year in connection with petroleum storage, and there are now thirty licenced premises.

## SECTION F

**Report of the Medical Officer of Health on  
Prevalence and Control of Infectious and  
Other Diseases**

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The number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1959 was 329 as compared with 49 during 1958; this substantial increase was almost accounted for by the epidemic of Measles.

**Measles**

There was a moderate epidemic of Measles extending over 4 months from February to May; 287 cases were notified but the disease was not severe in the majority of cases and only one patient required treatment in hospital. The epidemic conformed to the common biennial epidemic pattern there having been epidemics in 1957 and 1955, with very few cases in the intervening years.

**Dysentery**

The incidence of this disease remains low and only 5 cases were notified during the year. This, however, is no cause for complacency as Sonne Dysentery continues to be endemic, and the relatively mild nature of the symptoms results in untreated cases maintaining a reservoir of infection.

**Whooping Cough**

Only 3 cases were notified during the year—the smallest number on record. This is a measure of the value of immunisation against this disease, which may be serious in early childhood, immunisation is of undoubted value, and is offered by both general practitioners and local health authority clinics.

**Food Poisoning**

It is a pleasure to record yet another successive year without a single case of food poisoning being notified; this is contrary to the rather disturbing national trend and is a tribute to the high standard of local hygiene, particularly in the catering trade.

**Tuberculosis**

Although the number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year rose to 13 compared with 9 in 1958, the former figure was not excess on the average incidence during the past few years. Only half of the new cases occurred in men over the age of 35 years.

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1959

Diseases	Age Groups										Total Deaths	Total Notified 1959	Total Notified 1958	Increase or Decrease in 1959
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & over	Cases Admitted to Hospital				
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	—	4	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	7	7	—
Whooping Cough...	—	2	2	7	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	13	20	-7
Measles ...	7	68	73	136	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	287	5	+282
Pneumonia ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	11	2	1	+1
Dysentery ...	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	5	4	+1
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	2	—	1	—	5	—	5	—	—	2	13	9	+4
Tuberculosis, non-respiratory	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	-1
Totals ...	7	78	75	149	7	6	1	6	—	7	13	329	49	280

# NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Summary for five year period 1955-1959

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Food Poisoning	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio-myelitis	Paratyphoid	Dysentery
1955 18,020 ...	—	—	1	5	2	—	1	1	146	38	4	3	3
1956 18,390 ...	—	—	1	18	5	—	6	—	2	38	3	—	—
1957 18,960 ...	—	—	6	14	2	—	5	1	341	32	1	—	14
1958 19,540 ...	1	—	7	9	2	—	1	—	5	20	1	—	4
1959 20,230 ...	—	—	7	13	2	—	2	1	287	13	—	—	5

### TUBERCULOSIS

During the year, 15 cases of Tuberculosis were notified. 13 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 2 Deaths occurred from Tuberculosis.

#### NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1959

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
35 to 45	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 to 55	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 to 65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	9	4	1	1	2	—	—	—







